

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has initially rejected claims 1-3, 5, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 18-20 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. The Examiner has noted various informalities in the claims, and amendments have been made to clarify those aspects of the claims noted by the Examiner. Although the claim amendments have been made to address the Examiner's comments with respect to these various claims, the amendments do not further limit the invention, but merely clarify those portions of the claims as noted by the Examiner. For example, antecedent basis is provided in response to the Examiner's position that various recited portions of the claims did not have antecedent basis.

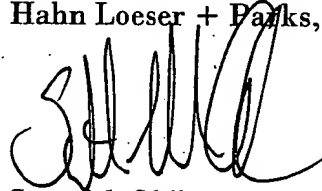
The Examiner has also rejected claims 6, 8 and 11 under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Whitehead. The Examiner states that Whitehead teaches a cargo tie down system including a body member 22+ secured in a desired position to a tie down member 66+ as broadly claimed. A hook 66 and a retention channel 32 are stated to be shown by Whitehead, to prevent vertical disengagement as broadly claimed. In response to this, claim 6 has been amended to recite that the body member comprises a downward facing retention channel. As clearly shown in Whitehead, the channel referred to by the Examiner, referencing element 32, is an upward facing channel, which does not bear any relation to the present invention as now claimed. It is believed that claim 6 along with those claims dependent thereon should now be in allowable condition.

The Examiner has noted that claims 14, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the §112 rejections, and based upon the foregoing amendments, it is

believed that these claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner also indicated that claims 1-3, 5, 13, 15 and 18 would be allowable if the problems noted under §112 were overcome. It is therefore believed that these claims should now also be in allowable condition.

It is now believed that the claims are fully in compliance with 35 USC §112, and are now in allowable condition. Favorable action hereon is thought to be in order and is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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